DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 126 682 FL 007 712

AUTHOR Garfinkel, Alan, Ed.; And Others
TITLE LBRIG Newsletter, Vol. 4, No. 3.
INSTITUTION Purdue Univ., Lafayette, Ind. Dept. of Modern Languages.
PUB DATE Apr 76
NOTE 5p.

EDRS PRICE MF-$0.83 HC-$1.67 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS *African Literature; *Arabic; Broadcast Industry; *Educational Radio; *Language Instruction; Magnetic Tape Cassettes; Modern Languages; *Programing (Broadcast); *Radio; Second Language Learning

ABSTRACT

Two short articles describe some unusual educational radio programing. A program on African literature is broadcast by the Iowa State University radio station and consists of discussions, talks and readings. Programs are transcribed onto cassettes and kept in the university library. The second article notes that Radio Cairo has produced a textbook series to accompany its "Arabic by Radio" program. The station distributes the books free of charge. Lessons may be heard in English on radio in the U.S. A bibliography section lists a French article on use of radio in language classes and a new book (in preparation) on international short wave broadcasting. (CHK)

****
* Documents acquired by ERIC include many informal unpublished *
* materials not available from other sources. ERIC makes every effort *
* to obtain the best copy available. Nevertheless, items of marginal *
* reproducibility are often encountered and this affects the quality *
* of the microfiche and hardcopy reproductions ERIC makes available *
* via the ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS). EDRS is not *
* responsible for the quality of the original document. Reproductions *
* supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made from the original. *
****

ED126682

L B R I G Newsletter

The Trimestrial Publication
of the
LANGUAGE BY RADIO INTEREST GROUP

Vol. IV - Number 3 April 1976

Editors: Alan Garfinkel, Dept. of Modern Language, Purdue U.
Robert J. Nelson, Dept. of French, University of Illinois
Philip D. Smith, Jr., Center for Foreign Language Research and Services, West Chester, Pennsylvania
Richard E. Wood, Dept. of Languages and International Study, Adelphi University

- - - - - - -

STATION IDENTIFICATION: The Managing Editor's Corner

The close of the academic year and of Volume IV leads me to thank those of you who have so generously responded to our appeal for "contributions" in recent numbers - as well as to apologize to those of you who may have had a "start" in seeing that word "contributions"at the head of those recent appeals. You are now aware that the "contributions" in question are purely spiritual - or should we say, air-wise, ethereal. Do continue to make these etheral contributions.

We can also report - with thanks both to the Ambassador of France to the United States, His Excellency, M. Jacques Kosciusko-Morizet, and those of you who wrote to him or his Press Counselor, M. Renaud Vignal - that Radio France has resumed short-wave broadcasts to this hemisphere, 1200h to 1700h (GMT) at 15,265 kHz.

And now to our "programs" for this number.

Robert J. Nelson
Managing Editor

FL007712

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

RADIO PROGRAM ON AFRICAN LITERATURE AT AT IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY (Ames) a Follow-up Report

by

David K. Bruner

It was with a belief in the power of radio and television to reach an audience and to influence that audience that Mrs. Bruner and I approached our own local radio station at Iowa State University. Our reception was somewhat surprising and most encouraging. To our request that we be permitted to produce a series of tapes for radio, telling about Francophone and Anglophone literature and writers in Africa and speaking about our experiences and giving our impressions of writers, works, schools, and public productions of African literature on stage and screen and over the air, we were given a most favorable response. The producer remarked how seldom faculty took advantage of their school's own broadcasting facilities voluntarily. I had the distinct impression that he felt teachers were neglecting a good thing to be had for the asking. The only injunction he gave us was that we should keep our audience well in mind and that we should talk informally, not pedagogically. He did not ask that we simplify or talk-down, merely that we adopt an informal manner. He offered us space for as many half-hour programs as we might wish to make and provided for airing on both AM and FM. (I had in the past done work over our radio and television stations and so may have had an easier welcome than another might receive. But I don't think the advantage, if there was one, was of great inportance.)

The next step, after the taping had got under way, was to approach the Library, which is presently interested in radio and television "books" (by means of cassettes and the Library's listening and viewing equipment). Briefly, the Library was more than willing to have our tapes transcribed onto cassettes by our Media Resources Center and to make these cassettes a catalogued part of its collection of books. The Media Resources Center was likewise most cooperative. After making the transcriptions, it retained master copies from which individual copies might be made; it offered to make and mail such copies as might be ordered at a moderate cost. To date, there have been a few requests and cassettes have been sent out -- some by ourselves, others by the College and the Media Resources Center.

The series of programs was developed in accord with a plan which seems so far to have worked fairly well. To begin with the title: the series is known as the Talking Sticks -- a name derived from the staff of the Chief's linguist, the Okyeame, and intended to suggest that just as the linguist was the considered and polished voice by means of which the Chief spoke to the assembled tribe, so the writers of Africa are the linguist voices today by means of which Africa speaks. These writers, we affectionately designate as the talking sticks. Let us witness Africa, we say, in the words of its writers. Let us listen to the many voices and learn from them.

The first program is an interview conducted by Ed Weiss of the radio station. All programs thereafter are simple two-person discussions, talks, readings -- somewhat tête-à-tête.

Even after the introductory interview, we felt it would be necessary to acquaint our listeners -- some of whom , at least, would listen on a more or less regular basis -- with some of the background of the West African nations, with which the series begins. Something of geographic and cartological fact, something of the history before the era of national independences, something of social structures, linguistic groupings, and literatures of an oral tradition had to be told. It was our purpose to speak informally, but freely, as if a guest in our home were listening. We decided to begin with a few of the best-known writers and the most likely heard-of titles, always limiting ourselves to writers whose books (or some of them) are available in English at the present time. Further, we decided to start with works whose main thrust is not one of indictment and protest against the white man, for all too often a newcomer to African literature comes with the idea that condemnation and protest are all that there is in the literature. Such an impression is, of course, false, and it may prevent a person from learning what richness and variety there is in the many literatures. Also, this preconception tends to blind the reader to much of the writer's art and technique and fosters the belief that the writer is really a simple, unsophisticated person with a naive view of the world. Therefore, at the outset we try to stress characterizations, motivations, literary style and influences, and unspoken assumptions about life as they may be demonstrated in the books under discussion. For example, approach to Achebe's Things Fall Apart is made by means of a reading of the Yeats poem from one of whose lines the novel draws its title. We have tried to "live" informally with the listener some segments of the novel or play we are talking about. Frequently we read excerpts, singly or jointly.

- - - - - - -

CAIRO OFFERS ARABIC LESSONS, TEXTBOOK

Richard E. Wood

Radio Cairo has produced an attractive new textbook series to accompany its regular "Arabic by Radio" programs. They can be obtained, free, by certified airmail, by writing to Arabic by Radio, Box 325, Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt. (Note that this is not the address for reception reports, etc., to Radio Cairo). At present, the station is sending out the first two volumes of Part One; other volumes and parts will follow. The package contains a request form for the subsequent volumes, to be returned to the address given. The textbooks, with a publication date of 1975, are well-produced.

Radio Cairo does not at present beam Arabic by Radio to North America, but the lessons may be heard in its service in English beamed to Great Britian, which is also loudly audible in North America, at 2200-2315 GMT (=5:00 - 6:15 p.m.,E.S.T.) on 9805 kHz, just outside the 31 meter band. They are also broadcast to Africa nad Asia. Day of broadcast may vary; listen for program announcements.

- - - - - - - - - - - -

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- - - - - - - - - - - -

Pierre Trescases, "Utilisation des informations de la radio avec enregistrement préalable sur magnétophone dans la classe de langue étrangère," Le Français dans le monde, No. 118 (janvier 1976), 27-28, 37-39.

New book in preparation. Richard E. Wood, Adelphi University, is currently preparing a new book on international short wave broadcasting to replace his Short Wave Voices of the World, which appeared in 1969. It will be published, again, by Gilfer Associates, P.O. Box 239, Park Ridge, NJ 07656, and is scheduled to appear in the fall of 1976. Title still undecided; the book should be of interest to a general readership, as well as for communications courses.

Reminder! Those of you who have not already done so are asked to forward stamped self-addressed envelopes so that we may continue to send you the LBRIG Newsletter. Thank you.